

Message Text

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43

ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PRS-01 PA-04 USIA-15 CIAE-00 INR-10

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DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:DKUX:MMK

APPROVED BY NEA/INS:DKUX

NEA/P:RTHURMAN

S/PRS - MR. KING (INFO)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

UNCLAS STATE 072104

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJ: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

1. FOLLOWING IS EXCERPT FROM APRIL 9 NOON PRESS BRIEFING:

QUOTE: Q: THERE ARE REPORTS THAT TALKS WILL BEGIN WITH INDIA ON THE SUBJECT OF AMERICAN ECONOMIC AID. CAN YOU TELL US, HAVE SUCH TALKS BEGUN -- IS A DECISION STILL AWAITED ON THAT MATTER?

A: FORMALLY AND TECHNICALLY I DON'T THINK SO. THERE HAVE BEEN GENERAL DISCUSSIONS BACK AND FORTH, IN WHICH THE INDIANS EXPRESSED THEIR INTEREST IN DISCUSSING A NEW ASSISTANCE RELATIONSHIP, AND WE HAVE EXPRESSED OUR WILLINGNESS TO HOLD SUCH DISCUSSIONS.

Q: JOHN, THE STATEMENT IS A LITTLE SURPRISING, BECAUSE THE INDIANS SAY THEY HAVE NOT FORMALLY REQUESTED ANY RESUMPTION OF AID.

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A: WELL, I AM NOT SURE I SAID THAT THEY FORMALLY REQUESTED AID.

: WELL, WHAT YOU ARE SAYING IS THAT THERE HAVE BEEN TALKS.

A: NO. I SAID THERE HAS BEEN A DISCUSSION ON VIEWS.

Q: HAS THE DEPARTMENT RECEIVED ANY FORMAL REQUEST OR AN INFORMAL REQUEST FROM THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT FOR RESUMPTION OF AID?

A: I SAY I DON'T THINK IT HAS REACHED THE STAGE WHERE THE FORMAL EXCHANGES WOULD BE UNDERTAKEN. I WILL STAND BY MY DESCRIPTION OF THE PROCESS -- THAT THEY EXPRESSED INTEREST, THAT WE EXPRESSED INTEREST.

Q: IS THIS A SUBJECT THAT IS AWAITING THE SECRETARY'S DECISION, JOHN?

A: NO.

Q: HOW LONG WILL MR. MOYNIHAN BE HERE?

A: I BELIEVE HE IS GOING BACK EARLY NEXT WEEK. RUSH

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